

109991

DATE: November 22, 2024

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Leonard G. Townes, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. to provide the Family Strengthening Program to families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$352,434.

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement (DSS6004-25) with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. ("FSW"), to provide the Family Strengthening Program to families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$352,434, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation (the "Agreement").

The services to be provided pursuant to this Agreement will serve a public purpose as the program will provide crisis-oriented treatment that includes supplying families with the tools and skills to address their children's behavior.

The goals and objectives of this program are in compliance with NYS Office of Children and Family Services regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10), which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. The main goal of this Agreement is to keep young children out of psychiatric hospitals and assist families in locating appropriate resources for their child within their communities. The Family Strengthening Program is a crisis-oriented program that works with children and families within their communities. Another significant program goal is to identify gaps in services and to encourage more collaboration between the hospitals, schools, outpatient mental health clinics and intensive/clinical case management programs. The Family Strengthening Program is available to families with a young child who has behavioral and/or emotional difficulties. This program provides direct intervention in the home and community, focusing on restoring and/or stabilizing family functioning. The provider is able to accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Intensive, in-home, crisis-oriented treatment
- Family education in order to preserve families and prevent foster care placement

- Assessment services to access community resources
- Teaching child development and age-appropriate expectations
- Improving overall functioning and ability to parent children
- Improving family communication and establishing household routines

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety because the services provided through this contract enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families, and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that the Department is able to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and its taxpayers.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. The Program Office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievement by reviewing the performance reports submitted by the vendor and making onsite visits.

During the 2024 contract year, Family Strengthening was expanded from servicing children ages 8-12 yrs. old to servicing children from 3-12 yrs. old. The program is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the current contract agreement capacity of (90-100 children) to be served, having served 64 children year-to-date from January 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024. The program is meeting its outcome target of 85% for children diverted from hospitalization in Psychiatric hospitals and children diverted from foster home placement.

The procurement of this Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii thereof. It should be noted that this Agreement is not subject to the competitive procurement requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (formerly, the Grants Management Common Rule), as the federal funding for this program falls under Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

An appropriate resolution requesting your Honorable Board's approval is attached herewith.

LGT/MBG/tml

Attachment

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (DSS6004-25) with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. to provide the Family Strengthening Program to families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$352,434, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget (the "Agreement"); and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. The County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any such State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate this Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Contractor, then the Contractor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes hereof.

1. Account to be Charged/Credited:

Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	22	8900	5960		\$352,434

2. Budget Funding Year(s): 2025

Start Date: January 1, 2025 End Date: December 31, 2025
(must match resolution)

3. Funding Source:

Federal	35%	CFDA#(s)	93.667		
State	30%	State ID#(s)	N/A		
Operating/ Tax Levy	35%				
Capital	N/A				

4. Total NTE: \$352,434
(Must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION
RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY